



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	22-0011 Severe Weather 11APR
Date	April 17, 2022
Time	9:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM April 16 to 8:00 AM April 17, 2022
Report Number	5

Regions Affected

DPS Regions Affected	1 & 6
DDCs Active	4B, 5 & 6

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On April 16, Governor Abbott visited Salado where he met with local officials from communities impacted by severe storms and a tornado that occurred Tuesday night in Bell and Williamson Counties. Governor Abbott reaffirmed the State of Texas' commitment to ensuring Texans affected by these storms and tornado will have the resources and support they need to recover and rebuild their communities. The Governor also thanked local officials in Bell and Williamson Counties, first responders, and volunteer emergency personnel for their swift response to help their fellow Texans.

During his remarks, the Governor noted that 70 homes and 3 church buildings were damaged, but no lives had been lost as a result of the storm. Governor Abbott also noted that, in true Texas fashion, volunteers in the area were the first to offer swift response to communities and commended them for being on scene within thirty minutes to aide Texans. He also thanked electric providers in the area for their quick response to restore power in the area.

Texans can contact 254-534-2217 to volunteer or donate to the Bell and Williamson County storm victims. Homeowners impacted by the storm and tornado can call 254-534-4562 to receive assistance.

Texans impacted by the storm in Bell and Williamson Counties are encouraged to complete the Texas Division of Emergency Management's (TDEM) Self Reporting Damage Survey. This survey will help the state identify damages across Texas and help emergency management officials gain an understanding of damages that

occurred during the recent severe weather. This data is also needed to provide information to FEMA to determine the state's eligibility and highlight the need for federal disaster assistance for individuals. The voluntary survey, available in both English and Spanish, can be accessed by visiting: damage.tdem.texas.gov. Reporting damage to TDEM is a voluntary activity, is not a substitute for reporting damage to an insurance agency and does not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

NWS storm survey teams confirmed a high-end EF-3 tornado event occurred in southern Bell County Tuesday evening near Salado. Preliminary maximum winds were estimated near 165 mph. Additional details will be forthcoming as the survey work continues. The Fort Hood Tornado occurred over an inaccessible and undeveloped part of the military reservation in southern Coryell County Tuesday afternoon. The tornado was rated as an EF- Unknown. It tracked nearly 4 miles. No known damage occurred. NWS storm survey teams have also determined an EF-0 tornado impacted the eastern part of Bell County near the town of Seaton. The tornado tree damage consistent with maximum winds of 75 mph.

On April 13, Governor Abbott issued disaster declarations for Bell County and Williamson County in response to severe weather that impacted the communities overnight on April 12. The storm produced heavy rain, large hail, damaging winds, and multiple tornadoes.

On April 12, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to prepare additional state resources for mobilization as Texans face critical-to-extreme wildfire weather conditions in the Western half of the state and severe storm threats in the Eastern half of the state. The Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) is operating at Level II: Escalated Response in support of severe weather and wildfire response.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 12 – Austin (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties)

Williamson County: Tornado touched down near the City of Florence and City of Jarrell. The Williamson County Office of Emergency Management received reports

from Sheriff's Office deputies of two separate possible tornadoes in Williamson County. Governor Abbott Issued a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 23 – Killeen (Includes: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

Bell County: Confirmed tornado east toward IH-35, City of Salado. Reports of significant damage Cedar Valley Road and FM 2843. 61 structures have been reported damaged from the storm throughout the county. The Salado tornado was classified as a high-end EF-3. Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 2843 has been cleared of all roadway/right of way debris. All regulatory signage is in place and open to all public traffic as of 7:30 PM, Thursday. TxDOT resources are off the incident as of 7:30 PM, Thursday. Bartlett Electric Cooperative completed reconstructing the three phase distribution supply lines and re-energized a large portion of that circuit at 5:00 PM, Thursday. There are approximately 100 meters currently still out of service, a majority of those are from homes unable to be connected due to damages incurred from the storm. Bartlett Electric Cooperative will return Friday to complete their remaining connections with an estimated time of restoration of 5:00 PM. VOAD, COAD coordination continues with Bell County and TDEM DRTF staff. The County Judge has paused the donations management operation until next Monday. VOAD, COAD groups have been authorized to move into the impacted areas to directly assist home/property owners starting Friday morning now that the roadway is clear and safe. As of Friday, 2:00 PM, all state resources and staff will be off the incident site and operations have been turned over to Bell County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Governor Abbott Issued a Disaster Declaration.

SAR Activities//Structure Assessment: On April 12, 13, and 14, 113 structures were searched and cleared. During these structure visits 70 structures were identified with Affected to Destroyed damage assessments. TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force staff assisted in damage assessment activities over the last few days – incorporating TDEM DRTF processes with Bell County operations to complete damage reports.

Bartlett Electric Cooperative (BEC): Electrical infrastructure in the impacted area was significant. 100 electric utility poles and wire conductor were destroyed. As of April 14, BEC reconstructed all damaged poles and continues repair operations on April 15. 1,200 hundred customers were without power at time of incident. As of April 15, all but 16 homes have been restored – BEC anticipates all service will be restored (to remaining homes) by end of day operations on April 15. BEC received mutual aid from Brazos Electric, Hamilton Electric, and private contractors to quickly restore this significant damage. BEC will continue to remove electrical component debris in the coming week.

Communications companies have begun assessing damages to their individual systems and are commencing repair operations as of April 15.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

Texas Division of Emergency Management – Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) – (TDEM):

TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF):

- DRTF provided important links/information regarding iSTAT/pSTAT/portal info and the Sequence of DSO-PDA process to Bell County EMC.
- DRTF continued to assist with VOAD coordination to address disaster related unmet needs.
- Partners: Texas Baptist Men, Celebration Church, Team Rubicon, Southern Baptists, UMCOR, Samaritan's Purse.
- Primary roles: General cleanup/Chainsaw Teams.
- DRTF provided JIT training on damage assessments and utilization of STAT to Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) Disaster Assessment Team (DAT) and local Bell County volunteer. Facilitated rapid damage assessments.
- DRTF participated in Central TX VOAD Call and provided situational awareness of activities and unmet needs for the 22-0010 Tornado Event in Bastrop and Williamson Counties, and for the 22-0011 Tornado Event in Bell County.
- DRTF provided mentorship / guidance to designated volunteer coordinator and donations management team in coordination with DC. Provided guidance on community messaging, tracking volunteer hours, and utilization of Bell County Citizen self-reports in iSTAT to continue to identify individual unmet needs and maximize use of VOAD partners on the ground.
- DRTF connected with Salado Volunteer Fire Department and pop-up sites that are assisting individuals. A Flyer is attached of resources from a local church out of Florence.
- Working to identify available resources and plug in resources at the local call center to improve local coordination of efforts and services.
- DRTF coordinated with VOAD partners regarding VRC / local call lines will be closed tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday. Locals will reopen the Salado Civic Center on Monday at 8:00 AM.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) / Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT): Two (2) TX-PWRT personnel are managing Public Works and Engineering from the Remote SOC. Addressing STAR requests as received.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): McGregor TAMFS Task Force responded to a request made by Bell County EMC for saw crews. A tornado passed through Salado earlier on Tuesday with extensive damage to the community. McGregor TF will be tasked with clearing the roads along FM2843 that is full of debris and downed trees.

Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC): The RRC will continue to support and work with the PUC throughout the event.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): Two public drinking water systems in the impacted area have issued a boil water notices.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): FM2843 Bell Co. remains closed due to down power lines from tornado damage. Crews from Bell County and Waco are working the clear the highways. TxDOT is staffing the Remote SOC

Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS): The DPS Aircraft Operations Division are coordinating arrangements with TDEM District Coordinators to conduct an aerial assessment of tornadic damage in Williamson and Bell Counties.

THP Chief's Office is providing personnel at the SOC in support of increased readiness level for severe weather.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TEEX/TX-PWRT	Liaison	2		Activated	R-SOC
TCEQ	Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
RRC	Liaison	1		Activated	R-SOC
TxDOT	Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TxDOT	Staff	25	20	Assigned	Bell County
TXDPS	Liaison	1		Activated	R-SOC
TXDPS	Helicopter	2	1	Activated	Williamson/Bell
TXDPS	Troopers	3	3	Activated	Williamson
TXDPS	Troopers	13	13	Activated	Bell
TWPD	Liaison	2	2	Assigned	R-SOC

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) for COVID-19 pandemic response with additional staffing for Wildfire Outbreak and Severe Weather response and recovery. The

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor these situations and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I	(Emergency Conditions)
Level II	(Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III	(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV	(Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://www.tdem.texas.gov/response/state-operations-center>

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<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

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